Claims

1.   A method for notifying communication group members, wherein said notifying is to be performed by a personal communications device operable in a telecommunications network, wherein at least one communication group and the members of said communication groups have been defined in said personal communications device, said device executing actions, said method comprising the steps of

-defining the communication actions associated with the notification method (302),

-identifying the communication actions associated with the notification method (306),

-identifying a communication group having the far-end party of the communication action as a member (308), and

-sending notifications to target devices, the users of which belonging to at least one said identified communication group (310).

2.   A method of claim 1, further comprising a step of constructing an address table of target devices from a plurality of communication group member lists, said lists comprising the far-end party of the communication action as a member.

3.   A method of claim 2, wherein each address appears not more than once in said constructed address table.

4.   A method of claim 1, further comprising a step of receiving notification messages from other devices.

5.   A method of claim 4, wherein a user presence database stored in said personal communications device is updated based on received notification data.

6. A method of claim 1, further comprising a step of notifying said target devices on behalf of said far-end party.

7. A method of claim 4, wherein said notifications comprise presence information of said far-end party.

8. A method of claim 1, wherein said identification of actions is based on a predefined list of communication actions triggering the sending of notifications.

9. A method of claim 1, wherein said notifications comprise one of the following: sounds to be played by said target devices, textual information, or visual symbols associated with said communication groups.

10. A method of claim 1, wherein said notification is substantially a SMS (Short Message Service) or MMS (Multimedia Messaging Service) message.

11. A method of claim 1, wherein said notification is sent over a connection utilizing substantially IPv6 (Internet Protocol, version 6).

12. A method of claim 1, wherein said communication action is substantially one of the following: initiating a call, answering a call, sending a message, receiving a message, or reading a received message.

13. A method of claim 1, further comprising a step of adding a new member to a communication group upon receiving a notification associated with the communication group from a person previously not belonging to said communication group.

14.   A method of claim 1, further comprising a step of removing at least one member from the communication group, which member has not been active for a predetermined time limit.

5   15.   A method of claim 1, further comprising a step of contacting a server for acquiring or updating communication group definitions.

16.   A method for notifying communication group members, wherein said notifying is to be performed by a personal communications device operable in a

10   telecommunications network, wherein at least one communication group and the members of said communication groups have been defined in said personal communications device, said device executing actions, said method comprising the steps of

-defining the associations of profiles with actions (404),

15   -defining the associations of profiles with communication groups (406),

-identifying the actions associated with a profile (410),

-mapping actions to profiles connected to at least one communication group (412), and

-sending notifications to target devices, the users of which belonging to at least

20   one communication group (416).

17.   A method of claim 16, further comprising a step of constructing an address table of target devices from a plurality of communication group member lists (414).

25   18.   A method of claim 17, wherein each address appears not more than once in said constructed address table.

19.   A method of claim 16, further comprising a step of receiving notification messages from other devices.

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20.   A method of claim 19, wherein user presence database stored in said personal communications device is updated based on received data.

21.   A method of claim 16, wherein said notifications comprise substantially one of following: sounds to be played by said target devices, textual information, or visual symbols associated with said communication groups.

22.   A method of claim 16, wherein said notification is substantially a SMS (Short Message Service) or MMS (Multimedia Messaging Service) message.

23.   A method of claim 16, wherein said notification is sent over a connection utilizing substantially IPv6 (Internet Protocol, version 6).

24.   A method of claim 16, wherein said action is substantially one of following: initiating a call, answering a call, sending a message, receiving a message, or reading a received message.

25.   A method of claim 16, wherein said action is substantially accessing a service.

26.   A method of claim 16, wherein said action is substantially part of a procedure for accessing the Internet.

27.   A method of claim 16, wherein said action is substantially switching the user profile.

28.   A method of claim 16, further comprising a step of adding a new member to a communication group upon receiving a notification associated with the communication group from a person previously not belonging to said communication group.

29. A method of 16, further comprising a step of removing at least one member from the communication group, which member has not been active for a predetermined time limit.

5 30. A method of claim 16, further comprising a step of contacting a server for acquiring or updating communication group definitions.

31. A personal communications device operable (206) in a telecommunications network, comprising processing means (214) and memory means (202, 210, 212) for

10 processing and storing instructions and data, said personal communications device arranged to identify actions from a plurality of actions, arranged to associate said identified actions with at least one communication group, and arranged to send notifications to target devices, the users of which belonging to at least one of said at least one communication group.

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32. A personal communications device of claim 31, further arranged to associate said identified actions with at least one communication group by retrieving the communication group membership information of the far-end party involved in said action from the database (210) stored in said personal communications device.

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33. A personal communications device of claim 31, further arranged to receive notification messages from other devices.

34. A personal communications device of claim 33, further arranged to update user

25 presence database (210) based on received data.

35. A personal communications device of claim 31, further arranged to notify said target devices on behalf of said far-end party.

36. A personal communications device of claim 33, wherein said notifications comprise presence information of said far-end party.

37. A personal communications device of claim 31, further arranged to associate

5 said identified actions with at least one communication group by mapping said actions to profiles connected to at least one communication group.

38. A personal communications device of claim 31, further arranged to construct an address table of target devices from a plurality of communication group member lists.

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39. A personal communications device of claim 31, which is substantially a GSM (Global System for Mobile communications) or UMTS (Universal Mobile Telecommunication System) terminal.

15 40. A personal communications device of claim 31, further arranged to identify said actions on the basis of a predetermined list of actions associated with sending of notifications.

41. A personal communications device of claim 31, further arranged to send said

20 notifications substantially as SMS (Short Message Service) or MMS (Multimedia Messaging Service) messages.

42. A personal communications device of claim 31, further arranged to transmit said notifications over a connection utilizing substantially IPv6 (Internet Protocol,

25 version 6).

43. A personal communications device of claim 33, further arranged to add a new member to a communication group upon receiving a notification associated with the communication group from a person previously not belonging to said communication

30 group.

44. A personal communications device of claim 31, further arranged to remove group members from the group, which members have not been active for a predetermined time limit.

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45. A personal communications device of claim 31, comprising at least two devices arranged to communicate with each other.